

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 OMB-01 AID-05 TRSE-00
PC-01 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /090 W
-----141529Z 033925 /46

R 141313Z FEB 77
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2725
INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
RUEHMGY MEMBASSY NAIROBI 9298
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 0903

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT ET
SUBJ: CHAIRMAN ADDRESSES GUENNET MILITARY GRADUATES

SUMMARY: IN SPEECH TO 30TH CLASS OF GUENNET MILITARY ACADEMY
FEBRUARY 12, CHAIRMAN MENGISTU MADE IT CLEAR TIME FOR FENCE
SITTING WAS OVER AND STATED ONLY THOSE WHO WERE "GENUINE"
REVOLUTIONARIES AND PATRIOTS WOULD HAVE PLACE IN SOCIALIST
ETHIOPIA. HE STATED NUMBER OF MEN UNDER ARMS TO BE INCREASED AND
QUALITY OF THEIR ARMS WOULD BE IMPROVED ASAP, AND THAT TASK OF
ARMING TRUE PROGRESSIVE FORCES, WORKERS, AND PEASANTS ALREADY
UNDERWAY. CHAIRMAN REPORTED AS BUOYANT AND CONFIDENT
BY U.S. MILITARY ATTACHES G W MAAG PERSONNEL. END SUMMARY.

1. IN HIS FIRST PUBLIC APPEARANCE AFTER BEING FORMALLY ANOINTED

AS PMAC CHAIRMAN, LT. COL. MENGISTU ADDRESSED 30TH GRADUATING
CLASS OF GUENNET MILITARY TRAINING CENTER FEBRUARY 12.
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ATTACHE CORPS INVITED AND IN ATTENDANCE. UNDER EMPEROR,
IT HAD BEEN TRADITIONAL PRACTICE HEAD OF STATE TO
ADDRESS GUENNET GRADUATES, PRACTICE WHICH HAD LAPSED
FOR PAST TWO YEARS.

2. IN SPEECH AS REPORTED, CHAIRMAN EMPHASIXED THAT ONLY
THOSE WHO WERE OPPOSED TO IMPERIALISM, GEUDALISM, AND

BUREAUCRATIC CAPITALISM AND WHO WERE GENUINE REVOLUTIONARIES AND PATRIOTS WOULD HAVE PLACE IN SOCIALIST ETHIOPIA. CHAIRMAN NOTED THAT PEOPLE'S REVOLUTION NOW IN HANDS OF TRUE AND DETERMINED REVOLUTIONARIES. HE MADE NOW STANDARD ATTACK AGAINST EPRP, EDU, ELF, REACTIONARY NEIGHBORS, AND IMPERIALISM, ALTHOUGH NO FOREIGN "ENEMIES" WERE NAMED. CHAIRMAN AGAIN EMPHASIZED REVOLUTION HAD NOW MOVE FROM DEFENSIVE TO OFFENSIVE. HE STATED THAT IT WAS "FOOLISH TO WAIVER, HESITATE OR SIT ON FENCE DURING THIS REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE" AND THAT REVOLUTIONARY MOTHERLAND WOULD NOT TOLERATE THOSE OPPOSED TO INTERESTS OF BROAD MASSES. CHAIRMAN NOTED IT WAS HISTORICAL IMPERATIVE FOR GENUINE PROGRESSIVES URGENTLY TO CREATE UNITY AND COMMON FRONT TO STRENGTHEN AND ACCELERATE REVOLUTION, AND THAT ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION HAD REACHED STAGE WHERE THIS DECISIVE QUESTION.

3. CHAIRMAN AGAIN PICKED UP THEM OF "REVOLUTIONARY MOTHERLAND OR DEATH" AND STATED UNITY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF REVOLUTIONARY MOTHERLAND WOULD NOT BE VIOLATED. CHAIRMAN NOTED REVOLUTIONARY ETHIOPIA DID NOT STAND ALONE IN THIS STRUGGLE, AND THAT PROGRESSIVE GOVERNMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS STANDING SOLIDLY WITH EPMG. CHAIRMAN STATED NUMBER OF MEN UNDER ARMS WOULD BE INCREASED AND QUALITY THEIR ARMAMENT IMPROVED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. NOTING THAT ARMING OF TRUE PROGRESSIVE FORCES, WORKERS AND PEASANTS HAD BEGUN WITH UTMOST SPEED PAST SUDAY AND WAS CONTINUING, CHAIRMAN STATED "THIS POPULAR FORCE, THIS REVOLUTIONARY FLAME IS CAPABLE OF SAFEGUARDING INTERESTS OF NOT ONLY REVOLUTIONARY ETHIOPIAN MOTHERLAND BUT ALSO TO DEFEND THOSE OF OTHER OPPRESSED

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CLASSES."

4. COMMENT: AFTER DELIVERING SPEECH MENGISTU MIXED FREELY WITH ATTACHE CORPS OF "FRIENDLY COUNTRIES" (AS REPORTED BY MEDIA) WHO FOUND HIM BUOYANT AND CONFIDENT. CHAIRMAN HAS MADE IT CLEAR IN THIS SPEECH AND ELSEWHERE THAT NEITHER OPPOSITION NOR NEUTRALITY ACCEPTABLE AS REVOLUTION MOVED INTO "OFFENSIVE" STAGE. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF INCREASE IN SIZE ARMED FORCES AND OF NEW ARMAMENTS WOULD APPEAR TO INDICATE NECESSARY ASSURANCES HAVE BEEN GIVEN THAT NEW FOREIGN ARMS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO EPMG.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPEECHES, CEREMONIAL MESSAGES, MILITARY SCHOOLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ADDIS00903
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770052-0060
Format: TEL
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770246/aaaabokx.tel
Line Count: 109
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 03076ec7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3333258
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHAIRMAN ADDRESSES GUENNET MILITARY GRADUATES SUMMARY: IN SPEECH TO 30TH CLASS OF GUENNET MILITARY ACADEMY FEBRUARY 12, CHAIRMAN MENGISTU MADE IT CL EAR TIME
TAGS: PINT, MILI, ET, (MENGISTU HAILE-MARIAM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/03076ec7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009